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Attachment to Z-10011/83

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NPIC/PEG (1/83)

XIA SSBN
HULUDAO NAVAL BASE SHIPYARD AND PORT FACILITY, CHINA

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1. (SWN) SIGNIFICANCE: THE XIA SSBN HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE LAUNCH DOCK.
2. (SWN) REMARKS: CHINA'S FIRST XIA-CLASS NUCLEAR-POWERED BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE (SSBN) HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE LAUNCH DOCK AT THIS SHIPYARD [REDACTED] IT IS UNDETERMINED AT THIS TIME WHETHER THE SUBMARINE HAS ACTUALLY LEFT PORT FOR INITIAL SEA TRIALS AND RETURNED. THE XIA SSBN IS NOW BERTHED OUTBOARD A SUPPORT BARGE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE MOLE NEAR A NEWLY ARRIVED LST-1-CLASS TANK LANDING SHIP (LST). THE FOUR-TANK REACTOR-ASSOCIATED BARGE, NO LONGER IN USE, IS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE MOLE. THE LST MAY HAVE ARRIVED IN SUPPORT OF SEA TRIALS ACTIVITY OR TO DELIVER MISSILE-ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT (WHICH HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN THE PAST) FROM ANOTHER FACILITY. A SHORT, CYLINDRICAL, POSSIBLE TANK SIMILAR TO THOSE USED ON THE FOUR-TANK BARGE, HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE MOLE NEAR THE SUBMARINE. A CABLE/HOSE CONNECTED TO THE AFT END OF THE SUBMARINE'S MISSILE BAY TERMINATES NEAR THE POSSIBLE TANK. SEVERAL PERSONNEL ARE IN THE AREA. IN POSSIBLY RELATED ACTIVITY, THE YANXI AUXILIARY HAS DEPARTED THE YARD [REDACTED]

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(SWN) PREPARATIONS FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE XIA SSBN WERE OBSERVED AT HULUDAO [REDACTED] WHEN REACTOR START-UP PROCEDURES WERE OBSERVED [REDACTED] BY WHICH TIME ALL 12 BALLAST CANS WERE LOADED. THE SSBN, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN APRIL 1981, HAS COMPLETED INITIAL FITTING OUT IN THE LAUNCH DOCK IN SIGNIFICANTLY LESS TIME THAN CHINA'S TWO OTHER NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES (HAN NUCLEAR-POWERED ATTACK SUBMARINE (SSN) UNITS 1 AND 2), SUGGESTING THAT PROPULSION-RELATED PROBLEMS PREVIOUSLY ENCOUNTERED HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY OVERCOME. THE XIA SSBN WILL PROBABLY PROCEED IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO XIAOPING DAO SUBMARINE BASE [REDACTED] FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF TESTING, AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE TWO HAN SSN.

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WARNING NOTICE
Intelligence Sources
and Methods Involved

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3. COORDINATES 40-43-16N 120-59-26E

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